



HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

An electronic newsletter in support of public safety services in Montana

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IM Weekly Highlights



- Microwave equipment at the Ellis site in Beaverhead County was cold installed this week.
- Aviat Networks completed a software upgrade to the TruePoint microwave system within the central area of the Northern Tier.
- The Mauer site is the last in the PSIC-3 microwave equipment project and is scheduled for installation next week.

Montana Shows Great NEPA Compliance at PSIC Grantee Conference

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

Dan Sullivan, Public Safety Services Bureau, and Dave Larsen, Compliance Monitor with the DES Office of Homeland Security Grants, just returned from an informative conference in Cleveland about the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant program.

Hosted by the Dept. of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grant Program, this two-day event provided the opportunity to share information, strategies, and tools to assist in achieving project goals. It also gave participants the chance to network about challenges, identify solutions and build partnerships with other grantees.

The PSIC Grantee Conference reviewed requirements for Strategic Technology Reserve (STR) expenditures, matching funds, and modifications to investment justifications' budgets and/or scopes. Representatives also were provided with an assessment of their compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

According to Dave Larsen, "Montana is doing great. We received a public 'atta-boy' for being in full compliance with NEPA regulations on all our PSIC projects." Dave explained a chart that used green, yellow and red boxes to compare the level of NEPA compliance for all PSIC grant recipients. "Montana was one of the few states to have all green boxes. Interoperability Montana should be

commended for following all NEPA regulations before proceeding with any construction."

Participants also had a chance to review lessons learned and hear success stories. Because NTIA and DHS are accountable to Congress and need to report on what the country is getting for its PSIC investments, these agencies are interested in reporting on success stories. Montana has a good story to tell, and we will be working to communicate this information in the near future.

700 MHz Region 25 Planning Committee Elects New Chair

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

Scott Bradford, Communications Technology Manager with Montana's Public Safety Services Bureau (PSSB), was elected as the new chair of the Region 25 - 700 MHz Planning Committee meeting held Tues., Oct. 12 in Bozeman, replacing Kevin Bruski, who wished to step down. Dale Osborne, Montana Highway Patrol, was elected Vice Chair.

This public meeting was held to continue work and take action on Montana's comprehensive 700 MHz Plan, a draft of which has been available for review at http://pssb.mt.gov/700_mhz_plan.mcpx for the past month and a half. Montana's plan was formally adopted at the meeting, and the next step is to follow the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) published process for requesting approval from adjacent regions as well as for submitting the plan to the FCC for its approval.

By way of background, the FCC established 54 Regional Planning Committees to develop plans and priorities for public safety use of 700 MHz narrowband spectrum. Region 25 encompasses the entire State of Montana. Montana's Regional Planning Committee has been actively working on the draft plan, which includes a spectrum allotment table. Although the 700 MHz band is not utilized currently in Montana, the advent of multi-band and cognitive radios will eventually increase the value and utilization of this spectrum.

Participants spoke about the committee's bylaws and other historic information, and noted that a draft of the bylaws is included as an Appendix in the plan. They also discussed the Channel Allotment Plan presented in another Appendix and emphasized the importance of using the national frequency naming scheme. In addition, participants

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learned that copies of the plan already have been sent informally to several adjacent regions, but no comments have been received as yet.

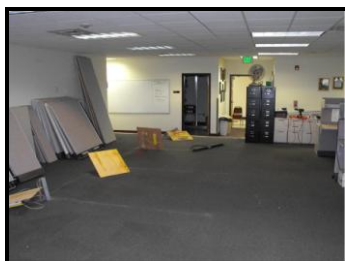
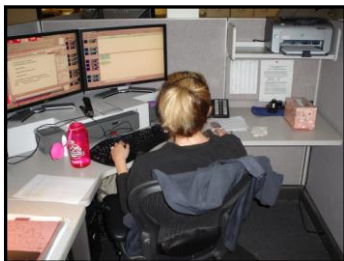
For questions or comments, please contact Region 25 Chair and PSSB Representative Scott Bradford (sbradford@mt.gov); Region 25 Vice Chair Dale Osborne (dosborne@mt.gov); PSSB Representative Dan Sullivan (dsullivan@mt.gov); or IM Executive Director Kevin Bruski (kbruski@interopmtproject.org).

MHP Dispatch Center Undergoes Furniture Transformation

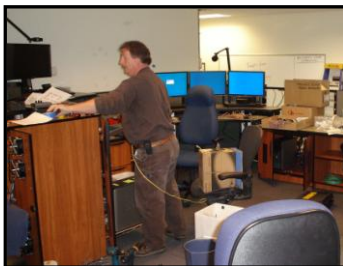
By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

A picture is worth a thousand words. Hence, I invite you to see the transformation of the Montana Highway Patrol (MHP) dispatch center with the “before,” “during” and “after” photos below showing the installation of new, ergonomic dispatch furniture.

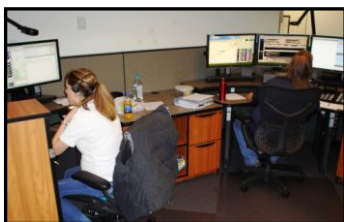
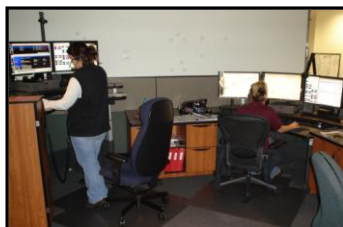
BEFORE



DURING



AFTER



Upcoming Meetings

- **Thurs., Oct. 21**
Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) Consortium
Butte • 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Chamber of Commerce, 1000 George St.
- **Thurs., Oct. 21**
Big Sky 11 Consortium
Billings • 9:00 am Tech. Committee
• 10:00 am Consortium
Yellowstone County EOC
2305 8th Ave. North
- **Mon., Oct. 25**
IM Technical Committee (IMTC)
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
MACo Offices, 2715 Skyway Dr.
- **Tues., Oct. 26**
Tri-County Consortium
Helena • 10:00 am - noon
IM Offices, 2717 Skyway Dr.
- **Tues., Oct. 26**
State Agency Radio Users Task Force
Helena • 9:00 am – 10:30 am
Old Livestock Building, 1310 Lockey St., Rm. 109
- **Tues.-Wed., Oct. 26-28**
Advanced Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Course
Big Timber • 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Carnegie Public Library, 314 McLeod Street
Sweet Grass County 9-1-1; Call 800-363-9127 to register
- **Thurs., Oct. 28**
I-15/90 Corridor Consortium
Butte • 10:00 am – noon
Chamber of Commerce, 1000 George St.
- **Mon., Nov. 8**
IM Finance Committee (IMFC)
Helena • 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Anderson ZurMuehlen
828 Great Northern Blvd.
- **Mon., Nov. 8**
IM Governance Committee (IMGC)
Helena • 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Anderson ZurMuehlen
828 Great Northern Blvd.
- **Tues., Nov. 9**
IM Project Directors Meeting (IMPD)
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
MACo Large Conf. Rm., Lower Level
2715 Skyway Dr.
- **Mon-Tues., Nov. 8-9**
Montana Independent Telecom Systems (MITS)
Symposium
Helena • Red Lion Colonial Hotel
2301 Colonial Dr.
<http://www.mitstel.com/Symposium/>
- **Tues.-Thurs., Nov. 16-18**
Western Border Interoperability Working Group
Regina, SK • Hosted by the Ministry of Corrections,
Public Safety and Policing
RCMP Depot, 6101 Dewdney Ave.
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